
MANITOBA CRAFT
COUNCIL



Photo by Ebunoluwa Akinbo



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CRAFT
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ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING THE 2022-2023 MCC YEAR

MANITOBA CRAFT COUNCIL

AUGUST 2022 - JULY 2023

Our Vision

A thriving and dynamic craft scene in Manitoba.

Our Mandate

To promote, develop, and advocate for contemporary craft and its makers in Manitoba.



Nuit Blanche at C2, Eco-printing Maker Table
Photo by MCC staff



Land Acknowledgement

The MCC is part of the C2 Centre for Craft located on Treaty 1 Territory, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene Peoples and the homeland of the Métis Nation. Winnipeg's water source is Shoal Lake, home of Shoal Lake 40 First Nation and Iskatewizaagegan 39 Independent First Nation. As a provincial organization, MCC's activities support craft artists across Manitoba, connecting to folks living on Treaty 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Territories and communities who are signatories to Treaties 6 and 10.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

With Covid having diminished enough to allow for in person attendance again, the Manitoba Craft Council was able to provide a full slate of exhibitions and programming at the C2 Centre for Craft and beyond.

Two group shows and a solo exhibition were enjoyed by numerous patrons along with an online exhibition by students and emerging artists. At least a dozen workshops along with artist talks and community outreach projects were also presented.

Crafted at the WAG was back for in person attendance and the MCC teamed up with IKEA for our first annual Vinterfest Craft sale at IKEA's Winnipeg store.

Ceramic artist Grace Nickel, nominated by the MCC, was awarded the Saidye Bronfman Governor General's prize for 2023. This award recognizes exceptional artists who have shaped their field of craft.

Due to the increasing scope of our programming and our growing membership, we have added ten staff hours to accommodate more community engagement activities, enabling us to achieve some of the goals we set out in our last strategic plan. Combined with the rising cost of everything and the frozen state of core funding, it was a deficit year for us. On a more positive note, the MCC board decided to invest some of its accumulated surplus into the creation of an endowment fund held by

the Winnipeg Foundation, the proceeds of which will flow into general operations each year.

Overall it was a busy and fulfilling year. Of course none of this happens without the diligence and hard work of the Manitoba Craft Council staff and volunteers. Their ability and good cheer help ensure the organization's ongoing success.



KEITH OLIVER
BOARD PRESIDENT



Keith Oliver's work at our Craft in Colour Members' exhibition
Photo by Ebunoluwa Akinbo

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

“What three words would you use to describe the Manitoba Craft Council?” Our staff and stakeholders were recently asked this question as part of the organizational development work we’re doing this year. The goal of the exercise was to check the alignment between what we strive for and the perceptions of our membership and audience. Are we on the same page? Yes! The word that came up most frequently, both from our leadership and our members, was **“community.”**

As an organization, we talk about being **“member-centered” - we love craftspeople**, and we want to create social, cultural, and economic opportunities that will allow them to thrive in whatever way they wish. Full of inspiration, creativity and meaning, a career in craft can also be challenging in many ways, and it’s often solitary. Not surprisingly then, “community” is one of the most often cited reasons people give for joining the MCC - the opportunity to connect with others, share ideas and skills, and find support. In person and online, we are seeking each other out.

Feedback from our IKEA Vinterfest market artists confirmed the trend when asked what they most appreciated about that event:

“My spectacular neighbours...”

“The great group of people and the friendly and supportive community feel amongst the vendors & Craft Council folks!”

“The people! Love the Craft Council. Love the Ikea folks. Love the makers.”

“The quality of all the people involved, Everyone was absolutely dedicated to what they were doing and in supporting each other to do their thing well. It did not feel competitive.”

“The community!”

Recognizing the power and importance of relationships, over the past year the Manitoba Craft Council has continued to prioritize activities that **enlarge our circle**. We’ve worked with MCC member Sheila Cailleau to host her Warm Hands Warm Hearts workshops in which dozens of volunteers transform old fur and leather coats into handmade mittens for those experiencing homelessness in Winnipeg.

In partnership with our neighbours at MOSAIC Newcomer Family Resource Centre and artists Danielle Desrochers and Margaret Firlotte, over 100 EAL (English as Additional Language) learners have had the opportunity to explore Métis culture and complete a beaded brooch project. We were also thrilled to host the artists behind Women Helping Women Beadwork Collective for a holiday sale in our gallery two years in a row, helping create opportunity for women who are, or have been, incarcerated.

People are the heart of MCC, and it’s the members, volunteers, board and staff who make this community possible. For all the hard work, love, and connectedness you offer the community through craft, I thank you!



TAMMY SUTHERLAND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXHIBITIONS

This was an exciting year of exhibitions in the Shirley Richardson Craft Gallery:



Eco-Craft exhibition
Photo by Ebinoluwa Akinbo

January - February 2023: Craft in Colour, a celebration and showcase of our most passionate supporters- our members!

Professional artists, artisans, and DIY-ers all came together to share contemporary approaches to making. In our largest member show to date, we saw the diversity of materials, techniques, and inspiration to work with colour that has captured the imagination of our growing community at the Manitoba Craft Council.

September-October 2022: Eco-Craft paired Manitoba craft-based artists with scientists whose work connects to climate science. Through meetings and discussion, the artists developed a personal appreciation of the physical work (the how), motivating intentions (the why), and the connecting research practice (the leap of faith) each scientist maintains, and then returned to the studio to create or co-create artwork connected to that experience. The resulting exhibition invites us into complicated subjects via visceral and tactile means to disarm us with humour, materials, and wonder.

-Curator Seema Goel



Craft in Colour exhibition
Photo by Ebinoluwa Akinbo

EXHIBITIONS

May - June 2023: Stuffed a solo exhibition of ceramic work by emerging artist Julianna Zwierciadlowska-Rhymer, tapping into the long association between food and ceramics, her own well-honed knowledge of clay as an artistic medium, and craft's non-threatening persona to get us to re-examine our relationship with food.



Stuffed exhibition
Photo by Ebunoluwa Akinbo



Rhythms of the Bisons, Dominique Consuelo Carriere, beads and ribbon on 3D printed skull, 2023. Photo courtesy of the artist

May - August 2023: Inter Artes et Naturam: Between Art and Nature Solo Exhibition of Work by Grace Nickel curated by Tammy Sutherland and Riva Symko at the Winnipeg Art Gallery to celebrate Grace Nickel being awarded the Saidye Bronfman Governor General's Award for Excellence in Fine Craft.

Summer 2023: Up and Coming Craft, a digital show for youth, students, and recent graduates of a post-secondary program who are working in a craft-based medium or using craft techniques. Participating artists this past year included: Dominique Consuelo Carriere, Cecilia-Sif Thompson, Camila Albuquerque, Mishelle Aminov Kosonovsky, Dhairya Vaidya, Madelaine Toupin, Jasmin Reimer, and Ryleigh J. Bruce.



Host, Grace Nickel, porcelain, 2015
Photo courtesy of the artist

All of the above included an online component such as a virtual tour, video release and/or Instagram video chats with the artists.

CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS

This past year MCC hosted many artist talks, both in-person and online!



- Eco-Craft Pairings Art Chats on Instagram live - talks with some of the scientist and artist pairs who took part in the Eco-Craft collaboration with our intern Reanna Swan
- An in-person artist talk with Eco-Craft pair Jessica Hodgson and Megan Westphal
- Using the Instagram Live, MCC Programme Coordinator Katrian Craig hosted chats with the Up-and-Coming Craft participants
- A Book Club reunion took place for those who participated in the discussion of the book *The New Politics of the Handmade*.
- Online artist talk with Josephine Clark on the topic- *Handmade/Readymade: Radical Handmaking for a Future Beyond Consumerism*
- Artist talk with Julianna Zweirciadloska-Rhymer in association with her exhibition, *Stuffed*

WORKSHOPS, DEMOS, TOURS



Spinning with Spindles workshop
with Helen Mawdsley
Photo by MCC staff

2022 saw the start of the **MCC Craft + Craft Beer** workshops, starting with **Lia Karras** teaching Frame Weaving at Sookram's Brewing Co. which was so popular, we ran it twice!

Beaded Earrings with Adriana Alarcon took place online in partnership with Manitoba Arts Network .

Gallery Tour for Summer Employees of MARCC (MB Artist Run Centres Coalition)

Intermediate Paper Marbling with Janet Caroll

Nuit Blanche 2022 Eco-printing Maker Table at C2

Eco-Craft Tours including a curatorial tour, Q+A with artists Willow Rector and Tibor Bodi, and Connie Chappel, and the MCAT Exchange School Tour and Workshop



Craft + Craft Beer with Lia Karras
Photo by MCC staff

WORKSHOPS, DEMOS, TOURS

**Yarn Spining with Spindles
with Helen Mawdsley**

**Wool Tapestries with Maureen
Winnicki Lyons**

**C2 participated in Doors Open
with a demonstration of Métis
Beadwork by David Heinrichs**

**Sewing Inheritance workshop
with Lindsey Bond**



Doors Open, beading demonstration with David Heinrichs
Photo by MCC staff



MOSAIC beading workshops with Danielle Desrochers
Photo by MCC staff

The MCC partnered with **MOSAIC Newcomer Family Resource Centre** to host a series of **Métis Beading Workshops** for newcomers to Canada, led in Spring 2023 by **Danielle Desrochers**

**Ceramics Cupcakes
workshop with Julianna
Zweirciadlowska-Rhymer**

**Lost Wax Casting workshop
with Anastasia Pindera**

WORKSHOPS, DEMOS, TOURS

Back by popular demand was the **Online Summer Maker Challenge**, regular invitations to get crafty around a given concept and post the results on social media.



Warm Hands Warm Hearts workshop
Photo by MCC staff



Summer Maker Challenge submission
By Danielle Unet. Photo care of the artist

The MCC continued to work with **Sheila Cailleau on her Warm Hands Warm Hearts mitten making project**, hosting 8 workshop sessions at C2 where volunteers learned how to recycle leather and fur coats and other goods into warm mittens for Winnipeggers experiencing homelessness.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Rachel Kroeker accepting the Marilyn Levitt award from Alan Lacovetsky
Photo by MCC staff

MCC Bursary Fund

The Manitoba Craft Council Bursary Fund was created to encourage the artistic development of Manitoba craft artists across the spectrum of craft media.

Bursaries for 2023 were awarded to Desa Kalem (book arts), Ann Sokal (jewellery), Cathie Ugrin (textiles), and Maureen Winnicki Lyons (textiles).

Grant Magic

Barb Hunt led a PD evening

Manitoba Arts Council Individual Grants info session with Tracey Longbottom

MCC Retreat

Two artist retreats at Victoria Beach were awarded this year to Jennifer Johnson and Kae Sasaki

The **Marilyn Levitt Prize** was awarded to Rachael Kroeker for commitment and achievement in functional ceramics

Craft in Colour Members' Exhibition Critique with Barb Hunt



Craft in Colour Members Critique
Photo by MCC staff

ARTIST SALES



Eric Au at the IKEA Market
Photo by MCC staff

Reanna Swan at the Student Sale
Photo by MCC staff

C2 Shop
Photo by Ebuloluwa Akinbo

- The flagship Crafted Sale returned to WAG-Qaumajuq with the launch of a new initiative, the Crafted Fashion Show.
- The first iteration of the MCC-IKEA Vinterfest Market took place in December 2022.
- MCC hosted a Holiday Trunk Sale with U of M Honours Fine Arts Students who use craft materials in their work.
- C2 hosted the non-profit Women Helping Women Beadwork Collective for a Trunk Sale in December 2022 which saw over 100 people come to shop beadwork made by incarcerated women in Manitoba, with 100% of the profits going to the makers.
- The C2 Shop continued to offer work by over 70 MB craft artists, both in-person and online and hosted another successful run of its annual Holiday Ornament Sale.

COLLABORATIONS



Matt Jenkins of Cloverdale Forge doing a demo at the South Dakota School of Mines
Photo courtesy of the artist

MCC partnered with Video Pool Media Arts Centre to present the workshop Exploring E-textiles and Circuitry with Lee Jones and Greta Grip

As always, the MCC is grateful for our amazing partners the Manitoba Crafts Museum and Library. They are amazing collaborators and are so glad to share the C2 space with them!

MCC was pleased to support the efforts of other craft-based initiatives in MB including the continued touring of Cloverdale Forge’s #366Hooks exhibition which went to the Trails and Rails Museum in Nebraska, Apex gallery at the South Dakota School of Mines, and the Touchstone Centre for Crafts in Pennsylvania.



E-textiles workshop
Photo courtesy of Video Pool

FUNDRAISING

On the fundraising front, MCC hosted two raffles and also saw the return of our annual fundraising evening event!



Cu at C2 Fundraiser, Photo courtesy of Seema Goel Mittens from the Holiday Raffle by Sheila Cailleau

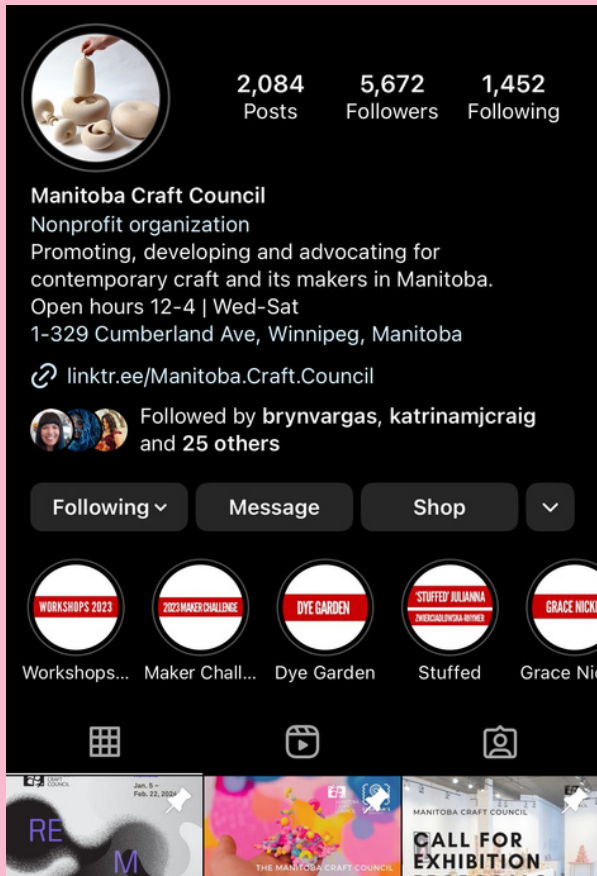
CRAFTED Raffle: where a beautiful hand-turned bowl donated by Keith Oliver drew astonishing ticket sales

IKEA Holiday Sale Raffle where a beautiful pair of mittens made and donated by Sheila Cailleau were raffled off

Cu at C2 Fundraiser was an exciting event, celebrating our craft community. It featured a silent craft auction, food and drink, a raffle for Stars and Ice tickets and the unique opportunity to distill your own essential oils in copper stills under the guidance of our friends at [Abode](#).

We were also grateful for the donations received outside these events. Overall, **\$18,824 was raised through fundraising and donations!** Our deep gratitude goes out to everyone who participated as a volunteer, donor or purchaser -- none of our fundraising efforts could happen without you!

VIRTUAL INTERACTIONS



Social Media by the Numbers

Instagram

- 5,672 Followers
- Over 250 posts this year

Facebook

- 2,578 Followers
- Over 240 posts this year

E-newsletters

- 26 Member Newsletters to over 270 MCC members
- 12 Craftblasts Newsletters to 2,298 subscribers

Youtube

- 12,276 views
- 218 Subscribers



INVESTMENT

Funding for Manitoba Craft Council programmes and operations come from a variety of sources. Full details are available in MCC's Audited Financial Statements for 2022-2023. Below is a quick glimpse into our annual revenues and expenses.

Revenues

\$212,563

Public Sector - 65%
Grants from federal, provincial and municipal funding agencies



Interest - 1%

Earned revenues - 24%
Artist sales in shop and gallery, membership fees, workshop registration, merchandise sales

Private sector - 10%
Donations, fundraising, endowments, grants from foundations

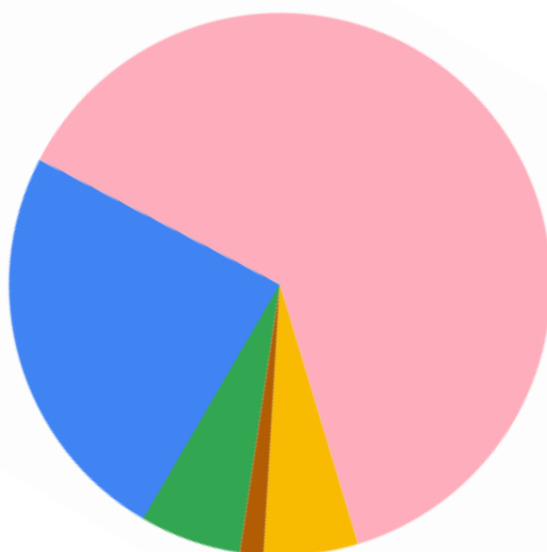
Expenses

\$213,300

Administrative - 24%
Grants from federal, provincial and municipal funding agencies

Facility - 6%
Rent, equipment, phone, wifi, janitorial

Fundraising - 1%



Artistic - 63%
Artist, curator, instructor, and other professional fees, sales commissions, artistic salaries, exhibition catalogues

Marketing - 6%
Salaries and promotion

In 2023 the MCC was excited to establish an endowment fund through the Winnipeg Foundation in order to help support the MCC into the future.

VOLUNTEERS

The work we do at the MCC would not be possible without all of our amazing volunteers. Thank you!



(L to R) Andrea Reichert, Seema Goel, Alison Gillmor, John Lyttle at our Volunteer Appreciation event
Photo by MCC staff

MCC Board Members, August 1, 2022 - July 31, 2023: Keith Oliver (President), Seema Goel (Vice-President), Ida Smith (Secretary), Chris Burke (Treasurer), Sheila Cailleau, Anna Hunter, Paul Robles, Nichol Marsch, Alison Gillmor, Sage Wednesday, Shaylyn Plett

C2 Shop: Norma Jean Roach

Fundraising Committee: Ida Smith (chair), Sheila Cailleau, Cailyn Harrison, Paul Robles, Seema Goel, Tammy Sutherland, Loricia Pacholko-Matheson, Anna Hunter

Finance Committee: Chris Burke, Tammy Sutherland

Human Resources Committee: Keith Oliver (chair), Sheila Cailleau, Alison Gillmor, Shaylyn Plett, Tammy Sutherland

Governance Committee: Ida Smith (chair), Keith Oliver, Alison Gillmor, Tammy Sutherland

C2 Retail Committee: Andrea Reichert (chair), Lily Despic, Tricia Wasney, Sheila Cailleau, Norma Jean Roach, Talia Thompson, Tammy Sutherland

Canadian Crafts Federation Representative: Tammy Sutherland

Event Volunteers: all of the above plus Afrooz Tabibzadeh, Alison Norberg, Anna Schmidt, Candice Ring, Ebunoluwa Akinbo, Francesca Carella Arfinengo, John Lyttle, Kelli Rey, Lee Ann Penner, Lily Despic, Lisa and Daphne Wilcox, Liz Sellors, Lorna McLarty, Margot Morrish, Maureen Winnicki-Lyons, Naila Janzen, Pamela Desmet Franklin, Ray Lyttle, Robert Shaw, Sonia Gaess, and Tricia Wasney.

2022-2023 DONORS

Alan Lacovetsky
Alison Gillmor
Anastasia Pindera
Barb Hunt
Bernie Léveillé
Brandi Shabaga
Brian Mcmillan
Carson Hill
CJ Tennant
Connie Chappel
Darci Madlung
David Dyck + Tammy Sutherland
Debra Glenn
Erika Hanneson
Erin Bend
Erwin Huebner
Gaetanne Sylvester
Gail Friesen
Grace Nickel
Ingrid Lincoln
Ione Thorkelsson
Jennifer Johnson
Jessica Hodgson
Jillian Sareault
June Derksen
Kami Goertz
Karen "Rudy" Rudolph
Karen Kerr
Kathleen Black
Keith Oliver
Kristin Mcpherson
Laurie Carpenter
Lee Anne Penner
Matt Jenkins
Maureen Lyons
Meridel Archambeau
Nicholas Hamilton
Pamela Desmet Franklin
Patricia Holbrow
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Pauline Braun
Peter Tittenberger

Rachael Kroeker
Rina Monchka
Robert Shaw
Sandra Hardy
Sheila Cailleau
Shira Wood
Stanley Major
Suzie Smith
Tibor Bodi
Wendy Lourenco
William Younger

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Robert and Meridel Archambeau for their generous donation towards the creation of the endowment fund for the Robert and Meridel Award for Excellence in Craft.



Bottle Vase by Robert Archambeau
Photo by Brody McQueen

STAFF

Tammy Sutherland, Executive Director

Katrina Craig, Programme and Community Engagement Coordinator

Chelsey Thiessen, Communications and Administration Coordinator

Reanna Swan, Programme Assistant

Sonia Gaies, Programme Assistant (Summer 2023)

Sandra Simpson, Cleaner

Debbie Girard, Bookkeeper (contract)

Urbanink, Graphic Design (contract)



C2 holiday staff party, December 2022

THANK YOU FUNDERS!

Core Operating:

Canada Council for the Arts
Manitoba Arts Council

Project:

Canada Summer Jobs
Winnipeg Arts Council
Young Canada Works/
Student Work Placement
Winnipeg Foundation



Stuffed exhibition
Photo by Ebunoluwa Akinbo